quality of the product at continuous casting machines, introduction of additional facilities for secondary steel making for improving the intrinsic quality of steel etc.

(d) The level of technologies in other countries can be represented as follows :

Sl. No.	Parameters	China	USA	Russia	Japan	India
1.	% of steel Produced through BOF route (1996)	70	58	52	67	54
2.	% of steel processed through secondary refining (1993)	35	86	-	96	21
3.	% of steel continuously cast (1996)	51	93	41	94	34

Technology no doubt plays an important part in production cost of steel but there are several other factors which equally influence the production cost. Hence, the comparison of the date of production cost of one country and other country and from one plant to other plant will not reflect the true effect of technology on production cost.

(Source : For Sl. No. 1 & 3 IISI World steel in figures (1997 edition); For Sl. No. 2 Report of the Sub-group No. 4 of the Working Group on Iron & Steel Industry constituted by Planning Commission for 9th Five Year Plan)

(e) The new technologies, it is felt, are cost effective and improve the competitive edge as these technologies are able to enhance the productivity of the plant. They also improve the quality of the products which improves the overal competitiveness. However, it is not possible to quantify and compare such issues because the production costs are influenced by many factors other than technolgoy itselt.

[English]

Performance of Postal Saving Schemes

2519. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the performance of Postal Savings Schemes being operated through Department of Posts for the last three years in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof for rural and urban areas in general and district-wise for Amra Division in particular as per standard norms of assessment;

(c) the total number of Agents operating in Amraoti Division, district-wise and the quantum of funds mobilised under the saving Schemes including Recurring Deposit Scheme together with the commission paid to the Agents thereon and the nature of difficulties faced by the depositers and agents in realisation of their dues from postal authorities; and

(d) the efforts being made to streamline the postal operations and to mop up savings from small investors in rural and urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Deptt. of Post handles the Small Savings Bank work as on agent on behalf of the Ministry of Finance which is the nodal Ministry for the policy making and rule framing of the Small Savings Schemes.

The Deptt. of Post monitors the operation of Post Office Savings bank to ensure its smooth implementation and to remove the public grievance, if any. The details about the gross deposits and the net deposits in the postal savings schemes for the last three years in Maharashtra one given in Statement-I attached.

(b) The Deptt. of Post has a well defined administrative machinery and prescribed procedure to redress the public grievance not only at the Directorate level but also in the States and the Districts, covering the urban as well as rural areas. The complaints are settled expeditiously as per the prescribed procedure.

(c) The details regarding the total number of the Agents under the Standardised Agency System (SAS) and the Mahila Pradhan Bachat Yojana (MPKBY) in Amraoti Division are 1226 and 1706 respectively. The details of the fund mobilisation through the agents under the small saving schemes, including RD scheme and the details of commission paid to the SAS agents only as available with the postal authorities are given in Statement II attached.

The depositors have sometime encountered difficulties on getting matured amount of RD Accounts due to abnormal heavy premature closure of RD Accounts through out the division/district. To alleviate the problem, steps have been taken to clear the work on payment of incentive to staff and engagement of extra manpower. No difficulty is faced by Agents.

(d) The deptt. of post constantly monitors the public grelvance and has gone in for modernisation of SB work, including computerisation, to provide efficient and customer friendly service. As and when required, based upon the feedback from the field units, the deptt. of post takes up with the ministry of finance for the revision of the post office savings bank rules as the ministry of finance is the nodal ministry for the small saving schemes.

Statement - I

Figures in respect of the Small Savings Schemes for Maharashtra

Year	Gross Deposit	Net Deposit
1994-95	3527.55	677.31
1995-96	3369.52	(-) 500.46
1996-97	3564.41	3080.20

Statement - II

(i) Commission paid to the agents under the standard the standardised agency system (SAS) in Amroati Division.

Year	Amount (Rs.)
1994-95	25,17,528
1995-96	34,13,133
1996-97	28,26,060

(ii) Yearwise fund mobilisation through agents under Small Savings Scheme including the RD Scheme.

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1994-95	74.38
1995-96	84.71
1996-97	88.08

Encroachment of Railway Land in Delhi

2520. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of policy on retrieval of railway land under unauthorized occupation;

(b) the area of railway land in National Capital Territory, Delhi which is presently under the occupation of Jhuggi Jhoupri;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to get these areas cleared of Jhuggi clusters for Railways own needs; and

(d) if so, which are these areas and the scheme planned to rehabilitate/resettle those who are uprooted from the railway land?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Removal of unauthorised occupation on Railway land is a continuous process. New encroachments are removed as soon as these are noticed. Old encroachments are dealt with under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

(b) About 327 Hect. of Railway land in Delhi is under unauthorised occupation of Jhuggi Jhoupri dwellers.

(c) and (d) Development/expansion of Railway activities is a continuous process. Whenever the Railway land unauthorisedly occupied by Jhuggi dwellers is required for developmental works the same is got vacated. So far as resettlement of Jhuggi dwellers on Railway land is concerned, this is the responsibility of State/Local Authorities.

[Translation]

Inflated Telephone Bills

2521. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJI BHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased be state :

(a) whether inflated bills are being sent to the telephone subscribers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take some concrete steps so as to put check on its;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether with the Connivance of the employees of MTNL the telephone lines are interchanged which results in inflated billing to the other subscribers;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to institute an inquiry in this regard in Delhi and Gujarat; and

(g) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (g) The information has been called for and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

[English]

Target of Steel Production

2522. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the target of steel production by the Steel Authority of India Limited in the current year;

(b) the actual production achieved in the first quarter; and

(c) the reasons for lagging behind the target fixed for the first quarter of the year?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The MOU target for Saleable Steel production by the Steel Authority of India Limited (excluding subsidiaries) in the current year is 9.6 million tonnes.